(ख) और (ग) मई में किए गए नाभिकीय परीक्षणों के बाद अमरीका के घरेलू कानून के व्यादेशानुसर संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका तथा अन्य देशों द्वारा भी कुछ प्रतिबंधात्मक आर्थिक की घोषणा की गई थी । दोहरे उपयोग की उच्च प्रौद्योगिकी से सबंद्ध मदों, विशेष रूप से अमरीका के वाणिज्य विभाग द्वारा अधिसूचित भारतीय वास्तविक वस्तुओं की सूची से सम्बद्ध अमरीकी निर्यात पर प्रतिबंध लगाने, और एक्जिम वित्त पोषण पर प्रतिबंधों (जो अब उठाया जा रहा है) के अलावा भारत के साथ व्यापार करने पर और कोई प्रतिबंध नहीं लगाए गए हैं।

(घ) जी नहीं । उपर्युक्त (क) के संबंध में भारत की स्थिति की समीक्षा इस समय विचाराधीन नहीं है ।

Border Trade with Bangladesh

575. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal sent by N.E. States for facilitating border trade with Bangladesh;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of Government of Bangladesh to this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) At the 5th Indo-Bangladcsh Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting in March 1997, both sides discussed the question of trade in local produce between areas in India and Bangladesh at selected points contiguous to the border between the two countries and agreed to set up a group of experts to examine and make recommendations on the modalities of border trade. The Government of Bangladesh has been informed about the composition of the Indian group of experts and has been requested for information on the formation of their group of experts for discussing the modalities for border trade. A proposal to hold the first meeting in India has been made to the Government of Bangladesh who have also been requested to indicate dates convenient for the meeting.

Transit Route Through Bangladesh

576. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long pending demand for a transit route for passenger and trade through Bangladesh in Tripura and other parts of North-East;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to get the transit route opened;

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with the Government of Bangladesh for a passage to Chittagong port; and

(d) the reaction of Government of Bangladesh to this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE . (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) India has a limited transit facility through Bangladesh under the provisions of the India-Bangladesh Waterways Transit & Trade Protocol (IWT&TP) which has been in operation since 1972. Government have also made repeated proposals to the Government of Bangladesh for overland transit facilities for passenger and freight traffic. Bangladesh has not agreed to these proposals. Government continue to pursue the matter.

Moratorium of Production of Fissile Material

577. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US Secretary of State Mrs. Albright has recently stated that for getting the sanctions lifted in addition to signing the CTBT, India must apply a moratorium on production of fissile material; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The

Government's attention has been drawn to press reports on remarks by the US Secretary of State to the effect that a formula for a moratorium on fissile materials needs to be found in addition to other steps for US sanctions to be lifted. Government's view on unilateral restrictive economic measures have been set out in official statements. India has stated that it would constructively participate in negotiations for a non discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning future production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear exposivc devices. India will pay serious attention to any other multilateral initiatives in this area, during the course of the negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

Cadre Review in Regional Passport Offices

578. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been no cadre review in the Regional Passport Offices since its inception;

(b) whether any such demand has been raised by the employees for initiating a Cadre review in that organisation; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A detailed proposal for a comprehensive review of the Central Passport Organization cadre is currently under Government's consideration.

Issue of Passports

579. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Embassies are engaged in the issue of "passports;

(b) if so, the reasons as to why the specialists in the field *i.e.,* the employees of the Regional Passport Office arc not being engaged for the same in the Indian Missions;

(c) whether there is any proposal to engage these specialists for the issue of passports from abroad; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) the deployment of officers belonging to the Central Passport Organisation is governed by the rules of service applicable to their cadre. The officers posted in the Consular Wings of Indian Diplomatic Missions and Posts abroad arc competent to discharge duties relating to the issue of passports and visas and provision of other consular services.

Black listing of Indian companies by US

580. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States Government has blacklisted 200 companies and organisations both in the public and the private sector as reported widely in the press;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereon;

(c) in the light of these developments the detailed status of Jaswant Singh— Taibott talks and the chance of any meaingful agreement between the two sides; and

(d) the stand of government on the question of signing the CTBT in view of all these?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The US Department of Commerce published on 13th November, 1998 a list of Indian entities that will be subject to export restrictions. The list includes 40 Indian